

Standing Waves

wave function: $y(x, t) = 2A \cos(\omega t) \sin(kx)$

nodes: $x_{\text{node}} = \frac{n}{2} \lambda$

antinodes: $x_{\text{antinode}} = \frac{2n+1}{4} \lambda$

Resonant Waves on a String

If the string is tied on both ends, there are nodes on both ends.

If L is the length of the string, then $L = n \frac{\lambda}{2}$.

Waves with wavelengths $\lambda_n = \frac{2L}{n}$ and frequencies $f_n = \frac{nv}{2L}$ are called **normal modes** (or n-th harmonics). The normal mode with $n = 1$ is called the **fundamental mode** or first harmonic.

For a wave on a string, the phase velocity is $v = \sqrt{\frac{F}{\mu}}$, therefore the normal modes have frequencies $f_n = \frac{n}{2L} \sqrt{\frac{F}{\mu}}$.